

ORION

CREW EXPLORATION VEHICLE

WEEKLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

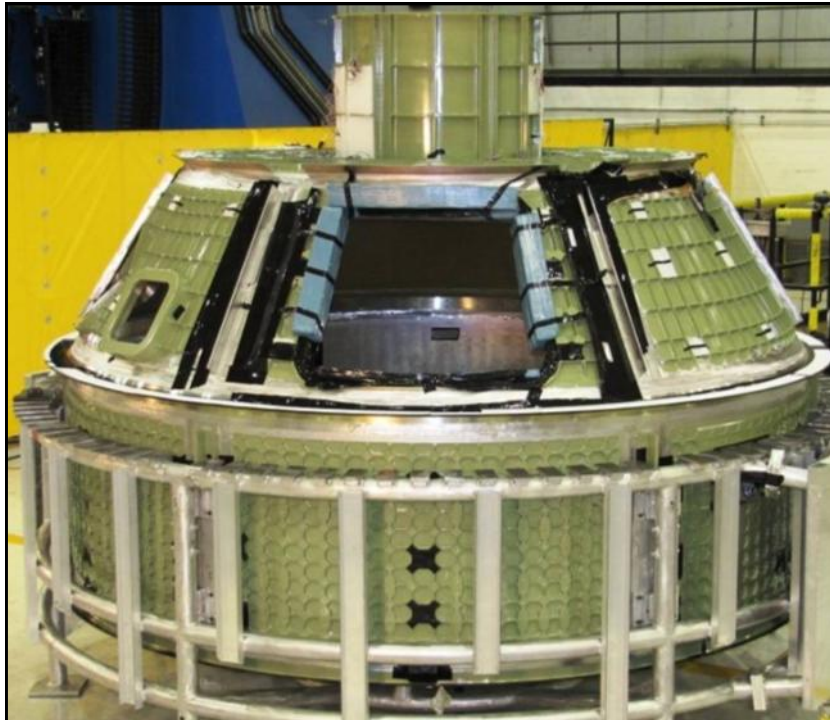


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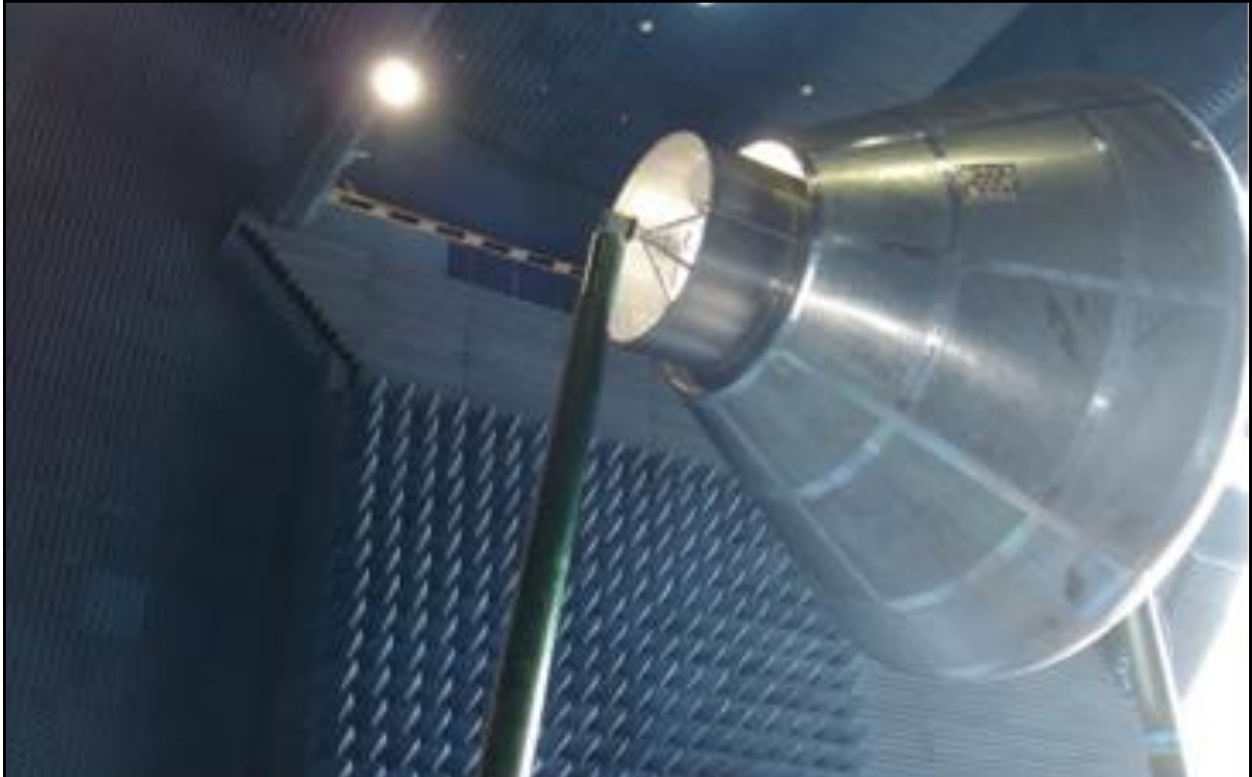


Work continues on the Crew Module (CM) Ground Test Article (GTA) at the Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Following the successful completion of the closeout weld, the MAF team has continued to prepare the GTA for the upcoming proof pressure test. At the current time, the CM (shown right) has been moved from the weld area and the team is now performing mechanical assembly work that is required to put the CM into a proper configuration for the proof test later this month.



United Space Alliance (USA) has completed the installation of heatshield tiles to Panels C & E of the Ground Test Article (GTA.) Panels C&E have representative AETB-8 tiles manufactured and installed by USA. These panels are manufacturing demonstrations that allow the team to work through CAD data transfers, structural surface preparation and installation procedures. Gap filling (being performed in picture on left) fills the space between tiles to minimize aerothermal heating when gas flow enters the gaps. The panels will now be processed to be shipped to the Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) for installation.



A prototype of the Ball Aerospace phased array antenna mounted on a full scale Crew Module/Service Module (CM/SM) Mockup was recently tested in the JSC Anechoic Chamber. This testing will be used to validate the RF models that are critical to the design of the Orion S-band communications system.

Outreach and Public Engagement

Reporter Ken Kremer of Spaceflight Magazine and Universe Today is writing another on-line article about the Orion Ground Test Article (GTA). He conducted a phone interview with Tim Knowles, the GTA Vehicle Manager, on May 20 and toured the Michoud Assembly Facility on June 2.

